

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is responsive to Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed on 10/19/2011.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/19/2011 has been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Christopher R. O'Brien on 12/14/2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

- Claim 90 has been canceled.
- Claims 87 and 95 have been amended as follows:

Claim 87 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus configured to serve as a document destination apparatus for receiving and printing first image data or a first document stored in an other image forming apparatus, and the image forming apparatus further configured

Art Unit: 2457

to serve as a document source apparatus for transmitting second image data or a second document stored therein to the other image forming apparatus, the image forming apparatus comprising:

a communication unit configured to communicate with the other image forming apparatus connected via a network;

a document storage unit configured to store the second image data or the second document;

a printing unit configured to print the first image data or the first document received from the other image forming apparatus via the communication unit; and

a document management unit configured to, when the image forming apparatus is serving as the document destination apparatus, transmit a print request to the other image forming apparatus, ~~for receiving~~ receive the first image data or the first document stored in the other image forming apparatus, and to print the received first image data or the first document by the ~~print~~ printing unit, and the document management unit being further configured to, when the image forming apparatus is serving as the document source apparatus, transmit the second image data or the second document in response to receipt of a print request from the other image forming apparatus, for printing the second image data or the second document stored in the image forming apparatus, by a printing unit of the other image forming apparatus; ~~and~~

wherein the document management unit is further configured to, when the image forming apparatus is serving as the document source apparatus, transmit to the other image forming apparatus a list of the second image data or the second document stored in the document storage unit in response to a list request from the other image forming apparatus, and to transmit to the

Art Unit: 2457

other image forming apparatus thumbnail data of the second image data or the second document in response to a thumbnail request from the other image forming apparatus.

Claim 95 (Currently Amended): An image forming method, implemented on an image forming apparatus configured to serve as a document destination apparatus for receiving and printing first image data or a first document stored in an other image forming apparatus, and the image forming apparatus being further configured to serve as a document source apparatus for transmitting second image data or a second document stored therein to the other image forming apparatus, the method comprising:

communicating, via a communication unit, with the other image forming apparatus connected via a network;

storing, at a document storage unit, the second image data or the second document;

transmitting, when the image forming apparatus is serving as the document destination apparatus, a print request to the other image forming apparatus for receiving the first image data or the first document stored in the other image forming apparatus;

printing, at a printing unit, the ~~received~~ first image data or the first document received from the other image forming apparatus via the communication unit; ~~and~~

transmitting, when the image forming apparatus is serving as the document source apparatus, the second image data or the second document in response to receipt of a print request from the other image forming apparatus for printing the second image data or the second document stored in the image forming apparatus by a printing unit of the other image forming apparatus; and

Art Unit: 2457

wherein when the image forming apparatus is serving as the document source apparatus, transmitting to the other image forming apparatus a list of the second image data or the second document stored in the document storage unit in response to a list request from the other image forming apparatus, and transmitting to the other image forming apparatus thumbnail data of the second image data or the second document in response to a thumbnail request from the other image forming apparatus.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 87-89 and 91-95 are allowed based on applicant's Amendment/Arguments filed on 10/19/2011 and examiner's Amendment filed on 12/14/2011.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael C. Lai whose telephone number is (571) 270-3236. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would

Application/Control Number: 10/665,347

Page 6

Art Unit: 2457

like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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